

*Lilting*



GRANGE-OVER-SANDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1955.



GRANGE-OVER-SANDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

Town Hall,

ULVERSTON.

October, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	1,884
Population-Census, 1951	3,028
-Registrar General's Estimate	
mid - 1955	2,850
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955	1,079
Rateable Value	£33,467
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£132

The Urban District of Grange-over-Sands is situated on the northern shore of the estuary of the River Kent which forms part of Morecambe Bay. It is a residential town and holiday resort.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1955 and for the preceding five years are given in the tabel on page two.

Of the 24 births registered, 10 were females and 14 were males of which 1 was illegitimate.

Approximately 92% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The main causes of death were:- Coronary disease 13, Vascular lesions of the nervous system 11 and Heart disease 13. Cancer accounted for 9 deaths.

Year.	Live Births.	Deaths (all causes)	Stillbirths.	Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality.	
				Rate per Number 1,000 registered population.	Rate per Number 1,000 registered total births.	Rate No. of per deaths 1,000 registered births.	Rate No. of per deaths 1,000 registered live births.
1955	24	x8.4	4.8	x16.8	Nil	Nil	Nil
1954	25	8.9	61	21.7	Nil	Nil	1 40
1953	27	9.6	61	21.7	Nil	Nil	Nil
1952	27	9.8	53	19.2	1 36	Nil	1 37
1951	26	9.4	40	14.4	2 71	Nil	Nil
1950	25	9.1	44	16.0	Nil	Nil	1 40
Average 5 years-1950 to 1954	-	9.4	-	18.6	-	21	- 23 - 23

X Adjusted Live birth rate (Comparability factor, 1.47) = 12.4  
Adjusted Death rate (Comparability factor, 0.50) = 8.4

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.		160 Smaller towns 25,000-50,000 population.		Grange-over-Sands Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	12.6	8.6
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	13.0	11.5
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	12.8	13.0
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.3	13.1	10.9
1955	15.0	11.7	14.9	11.6	12.4	8.4

#### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban  
District, Ulverston Urban  
District, Ulverston Rural  
District.

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1.  
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-  
to 31. 3. 55.

H. BAXENDALE, A.R.I.C.S.,  
Sanitary Inspector's  
Certificate R.S.I., Inspector  
of Meat and other Foods.  
Chartered Surveyor.

Other Appointments Held:-

Assistant Surveyor.

Sanitary Inspector:-  
31. 3. 55 onwards

J. S. SPENCER, M.S.I.A., Certificate  
R. S. I., and S.I.E.J.B.  
Inspector of Meat and other  
Foods.

Other Appointments Held:-

Assistant Surveyor.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to Grange Urban District is from moorland gathering grounds which are not cultivated but grazed by sheep. The gathering grounds are situated at Chapel House Plantation in the Parish of Staveley in the Ulverston Rural District supplying a new reservoir at Simpson Ground, and a further area at Newton-in-Cartmel where two smaller reservoirs and the treatment works are situated.

The reservoirs have a total capacity of 72 million gallons.

After treatment with lime, filtration and chlorination the water passes to a storage tank of 140,000 gallons capacity and then to the trunk mains for distribution. There are three service reservoirs in Grange, at Windermere Road (150,000 gallons) Hampsfell (200,000 gallons) and Wartbarrow (200,000 gallons) which serve as reservoirs in case of interruption in trunk mains and also for equalising demand in the trunk mains.

The supply was maintained throughout the year, with difficulty in the period August to November, due to the hot dry summer experienced. Emergency arrangements for augmenting the supply were in operation from August to November. These arrangements consist of pumping from a spring in the Ornamental Gardens in Main Street, Grange, into the trunk mains.

There are no private water supplies within the area and all houses have piped water supply.

Two samples taken for bacteriological examination were found to be satisfactory.

The work on the 9" trunk main from Merlewood to Grange was continued during the year, but it became necessary towards the end of the year to temporarily stop work on this project owing to difficulties in obtaining wayleaves through the property and to the fact that water was not available for high pressure testing of the completed portions. The construction of the new impounding reservoir at Simpson Ground was completed towards the end of the year, work on the new treatment works at Newton was continued and installation of the plant was commenced,

### RAINFALL.

January	2.96	July	2.38
February	1.60	August	2.57
March	1.75	September	3.54
April	3.28	October	2.97
May	3.51	November	2.73
June	4.96	December	7.06

<u>Year</u>	<u>First Quarter.</u>	<u>Second Quarter.</u>	<u>Third Quarter.</u>	<u>Fourth Quarter.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1941	9.68	6.69	9.78	13.93	40.08
1942	8.12	7.89	17.08	14.50	47.59
1943	12.55	12.36	19.72	13.20	57.83
1944	8.61	10.90	16.22	20.33	56.06
1945	13.22	10.80	10.20	10.39	44.61
1946	12.97	8.72	20.12	16.83	58.64
1947	9.89	12.42	9.87	11.74	43.92
1948	16.86	13.69	14.95	13.39	58.89
1949	9.29	9.18	9.06	21.02	48.55
1950	11.83	8.63	21.04	12.87	54.37
1951	15.86	5.87	13.72	12.86	48.31
1952	10.38	9.58	8.14	10.24	38.34
1953	5.97	8.94	13.50	13.74	42.74
1954	13.17	11.13	20.85	23.50	68.65
1955	6.31	11.75	8.49	12.76	39.31
15 years average	10.31	9.90	14.18	14.78	48.81

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage to the Urban District is a combined system and disposal is by rough screening followed by discharge into the tidal estuary.

Most of the district is sewered, apart from isolated areas which are dependent on septic tanks. These areas are briefly, the higher parts of Grange Fell, the Slack area of Windermere Road, Lyndene Estate, a number of farms and Holme Island.

Sewage from the lower end of Grange adjacent to the railway station is collected in a well situated in the Ornamental Gardens where dual pumps are installed to lift the sewage into the main outfall sewer. This sewer runs the full length of the Promenade from the station to the main outfall tanks, where sewage is screened and discharged into the estuary. The higher parts of the town (excluding Kents Bank Area) discharge into tributary sewers which ultimately join the main sewer on the Promenade.

In Kents Bank Area the main outfall sewer passes under the Railway adjacent to Kents Bank Station and then along the seaward side of the railway embankment to a screening tank (situated at Kirkhead End), the outfall from which again discharges into the estuary.

The Cari Lane area drains into a settlement tank and then discharges via a tidal door into the estuary. This tank is working beyond capacity.

The sedimentation tanks were emptied regularly and the system operated quite well on the whole but a few stoppages occurred due mainly to the fault of owners depositing scrubbing brushes, rags, etc., in their drains.

All the houses in the Urban District are now provided with fresh water closets.

Thirty one new properties were connected to the main sewer.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A fortnightly collection of domestic refuse was maintained throughout the year. The domestic refuse is collected with a special type vehicle employing a staff of two, assisted when necessary with the general purpose vehicle and a further two men.

Throughout the year a weekly service was maintained for the collection of trade refuse. This is undertaken jointly by the special vehicle and the general purpose vehicle, employing in all a staff of four. There is no special charge for the collection of trade refuse.

The whole of the refuse is dealt with at the Council's incinerator and other material like builder's refuse etc., is tipped adjacent to the incinerator. The stopping of indiscriminate tipping has resulted in an improvement in the state of the tip.

Informal action was taken in a few cases for the provision of refuse bins and in all cases the notices were complied with. A certain amount of salvage was sold during the year but the demand still fluctuates.

## BATHING POOL.

A modern open air bathing pool of 445,000 gallons capacity is provided and maintained by the Council. Sea water is taken at appropriate states of the tide, filtered aerated and chlorinated, and when the pool is in use the water is constantly circulated and treated. Samples taken at regular intervals during the summer were satisfactory.

Attendances during the summer were well above average, due no doubt to the exceptionally warm weather experienced.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, as also are the particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations 1948.

## HOUSING.

The standard of housing in Grange is fairly high. Most of the older houses are stone structures and all have the water carriage system of drainage and movable dustbins.

In the Grange Fell district most of the older and smaller dwellings are owner occupied and are in a reasonable state of repair. The principle defect to this type of property is the lack of yard space due in certain instances to outbuildings being erected indiscriminately, but most have gardens of considerable size, thereby reducing their density.

Apart from the aforementioned, most other houses are of modern brick and/or stone construction and of a larger type, having all the services.

### Council Housing.

During the year, the erection of twenty maisonettes and flats at Thornfield Road was completed and all the dwellings were occupied. This makes a total of 114 dwellings owned by the Council.

No conditions of overcrowding were reported.

<u>Number of new houses erected during the year:-</u>	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Flats and Maisonettes.</u>
---	----------------	-----------------------------------

(1) By the local authority	Nil	20
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	
(3) By other bodies or persons	11	Nil

### 1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	22
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, (formal or informal)	35
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number found during year	Nil
(b) Number at end of year	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	14

### 2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year	Nil
--	-----

### 3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Persons Displaced.</u>
(1) Houses demolished or closed during the year:		
(a) <u>Housing Act, 1936.</u>		
Demolished or closed as a result of action under Sections 11 or 12	Nil	Nil
(b) <u>Housing Act, 1949.</u>		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) <u>Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1953</u>		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil

## (2) Repairs during the year:

No. of Houses.
-------------------

- (a) Unfit houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts 11
- (b) Public Health Acts-action after service of formal notice-Houses in which defects were remedied;
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| By owners                               | 1   |
| By local authority in default of owners | Nil |
- (c) Housing Act, 1936, action after service of formal notice (Section 9,10,11 and 19) houses made fit:
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| By owners                               | Nil |
| By local authority in default of owners | Nil |
- (d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.  
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.

Action taken during the year:	<u>No. of Schemes.</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected</u>
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	6	6
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(d) Work completed	1	1

CAMPING SITES.

There is only one site used for movable dwellings in the district. This is used for short periods (within the statutory limit) by campers and informal action is necessary on occasions.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Whooping cough was more prevalent than for a number of years. Most of the cases occurring during the 4th Quarter of the year.

1955.

Disease.	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Number of Cases.			Removed to Hospital Deaths.	
						Cases.	Removed to Hospital	Deaths.		
Scarlet fever	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0		
Measles	68	3	1	18	86	17	0	0		
Whooping cough	19	2	1	0	4	38	0	0		
Pneumonia	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0		
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Policymyelitis	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0		
Food poisoning	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTALS.	91	5	6	25	90	57	1	0		

## TUBERCULOSIS.

One case of respiratory tuberculosis was reported in a female aged 17 years.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Most of the factories in Grange are allied to other businesses, such as shops, bakehouses and workshops operating machines, and are therefore legally designated as factories. Most of these were visited and informal action necessary on a few occasions for want of cleanliness or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	1	1	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	21	7	Nil	Nil

## SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Fifty eight inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1950 and six offices under the Public Health Act, 1936. Only informal action was necessary where notices were not displayed and cleanliness not up to standard.

## SCHOOLS.

There are three schools within the district all have a satisfactory mains water supply and sanitary accommodation, and are provided with dustbins. All are drained to the public sewer.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades operating in Grange.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

No action was taken under the above acts during the year.

---

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, I thank the members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Grange Urban District Council and in particular the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for their courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Only tuberculin tested milk is sold in the district and no heat treated milk is sold. There were nine persons retailing milk in Grange, seven operating from premises outside the district, one from a dairy farm and one from a dairy farm within the district. During the year, the dealer operating from the aforementioned dairy ceased to retail milk and his name was removed from the register.

Nine samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, four were found to be unsatisfactory and were reported to the County Milk Production Officer, none of the nine contained tubercle bacilli.

ICE CREAM.

Eighteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and five for the manufacture by the cold mix method. All except the five sell wrapped ice cream obtained from reputable firms.

MEAT INSPECTION.

One private slaughterhouse is licensed and used by one butcher. Improvements to the lairage facilities were carried out during the year.

Ante-mortem inspection of all animals is carried out whenever possible and post-mortem inspection of all animals is carried out. Statistics are given as to number slaughtered and number of deceased animals.

The remaining butchers use the public abattoir at Ulverston or buy their meat from wholesale suppliers.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep-Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	131	8	649	182
Number inspected	131	8	649	182
<u>Diseased (except tuberculosis).</u>				
Whole carcase	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Part of carcase or organ	65	Nil	66	15
Percentage affected	50%	Nil	10.3%	8.2%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part of carcase or organ	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage affected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year the following articles of food were surrendered for destruction after inspection.

Tinned meat 1cwt. 0 lbs. 12ozs.

Fish 80 lbs.

Fowls 40 lbs.

Bacon 31 lbs.

Tinned fruit and miscellaneous tins 31 lbs. 12 ozs.

Cream 5½ gallons

GENERAL.

Routine inspections of food premises were carried out and show that nearly all the premises comply with the requirements of the "Food and Drugs Act" and byelaws made thereunder. Informal action was necessary in some cases. Generally the faults to be observed are not faults in construction of the premises but are due to bad practice of food handling. It is hoped that some further improvements can be made in the future especially now that the "Food and Drugs Act, 1955" and the "Food Hygiene Regulations" are in force.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

J. S. SPENCER,

Sanitary Inspector.



